

For More Information about Metropolitan Transportation Planning

Federal Sources

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) at <http://www.planning.dot.gov/metro.asp> for general information about Metropolitan Transportation Planning

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) at http://www.fta.dot.gov/grant_programs/specific_grant_programs/major_capital_investments/new_starts/3875_ENG_HTML.htm for information about planning and the environment

State Sources

New Mexico Department of Transportation at <http://www.nmshtd.state.nm.us/> for transportation in the State of New Mexico

Local Sources

MRCOG's website at www.mrcog-nm.gov to find out about transportation in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area, the Metropolitan Transportation Board, regional planning documents, maps, census data, upcoming public events, and much more

ABQ Ride (City of Albuquerque Transit Department) at <http://www.abq.gov/transit/> for information about transit services in Albuquerque



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Metropolitan Transportation Plan

What is it?



What does it do?



Why do we need it?



Why should I care?



Metropolitan Transportation Plan

A Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a long-range transportation plan that paints a picture of what a metropolitan area will look like 20 years from now.

Why do we need an MTP?

Under federal law, all metropolitan areas with a population of more than 50,000 must have a long-range transportation plan. Without one, federal funds for transportation projects cannot be accessed. The MTP guides almost all decisions about transportation issues in a metropolitan area, including which transportation projects will be implemented in the short term.

In addition, planning for an area's long range transportation future allows people to plan for solutions to problems like congestion before they happen.

What does it do?

The Plan uses models that simulate the real world to show the impact of anticipated changes in an area over the next 20 years on its transportation system, such as increases in population and employment.

It then recommends transportation planning activities to accommodate the forecasted growth: what roads need to be built or improved, what transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities need to be developed or improved, and how all these different projects and modes of transportation will work together.



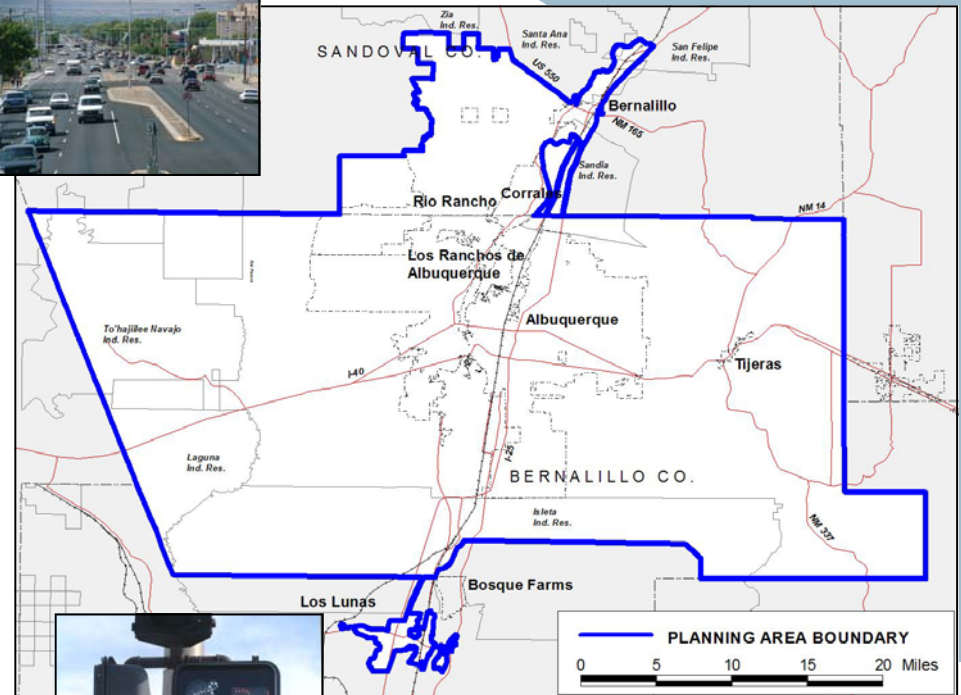
For all recommended projects and planning activities the Plan needs to show that they address identified problems, like congestion, that there will be funding available (you can't spend money you don't have!) and that each project's positive and negative effects are considered.

Why should I care?

An MTP is basically the long range master plan for transportation in an area. Being involved in its development gives you a chance to get in on the ground floor. Residents of the Albuquerque metropolitan area are asked for their input at each stage of MTP development: which goals and objectives should guide Plan development, how they want their region to look and function in the future, and which projects and planning activities they think would be beneficial.

Who's in charge?

The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) is the agency in charge of developing the MTP for the



Albuquerque Metropolitan Area (see map), but this Plan is not developed in a vacuum.

In fact, local elected officials, local governments' technical staff, and, most importantly, local residents work *together* to prepare the MTP.

Local government staff and MRCOG take local residents' input along with the anticipated population and employment changes over the next 20 years to develop several possible scenarios of our transportation future.

Ultimately, elected officials who serve on the Metropolitan Transportation Board decide which scenario is the preferred one and which projects will be included in the MTP.